

LEHIGH VALLEY CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

BY - LAWS

Article 1 - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Lehigh Valley Citizens Concerned for a Better Community, hereafter referred to as the L.V.C.C.B.C.

Article 2 - Purpose

The purposes for which the L.V.C.C.B.C. is organized are as follows:

- (1). To ensure passage and enforcement of the City of Allentown's ordinance concerning equal civil rights for homosexuals.
- (2). To take action to bring gay people into full participation with the mainstream of American Society and exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in true equality with all others. This purpose includes, but is not limited to, equal rights and responsibilities in all aspects of citizenship, public service, employment, education, housing, and family life and includes freedom from discrimination because of age, marital status, or sexual preference.

Article 3 - Membership

Membership is open to any person or persons interested in or involved in the above stated purposes of the L.V.C.C.B.C. Such persons shall be entitled to all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of the organization.

- (1). Antidiscrimination: No person shall be excluded from membership, nor shall any existing member be segregated or otherwise discriminated against because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, economic status, marital status, parental status, intellectual capacity, affectional preference, appearance, physical handicap, political affiliation, or lifestyle.
- (2). Responsibility: Any member undertaking a public project or political action in the name of this organization shall obtain prior approval of the Steering Committee or the General Membership.

Article 4 - Officers

(1) The officers may delegate such duties as may be necessary to implement the performance of their office, but they may not delegate their responsibility. The officers shall be responsible at all times to the members.

- A. Co-Chairpersons: Two Co-Chairpersons, one of each sex, will be the chief spokespersons and administrators of the organization. They will manage the day to day affairs between the Steering Committee and the General Membership meetings. Chairpersons shall preside at all Steering Committee and General Membership meetings.
- B. Vice-Chair in charge of Publicity shall oversee all public relations of the organization which shall include, but not be limited to, media, public speaking, and publication of the Newsletter.
- C. Vice-Chair in charge of Membership shall keep records of members, subscribers to the Newsletter, and potential members and will encourage attendance at all meetings and make arrangements so that all members and potential members feel comfortable and included at all organizational events and meetings. Vice-Chair in charge of Membership shall be responsible for assimilating old and new members into the structure of L.V.C.C.B.C. in a manner that is congenial to that individual member.
- D. Vice-Chair in charge of Planning shall be responsible for assessing the needs of the membership and taking steps and forming committees to reach goals set by the membership. This Chair shall also be responsible for generating new ideas from the membership.
- E. Secretary shall take and keep minutes of both Steering Committee and General Membership meetings and attend to general correspondence. The Secretary shall also be responsible for turning over to his/her successor all records in her/his possession.

F. Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of L.V.C.C.B.C. and shall deposit them in such bank as may be designated by the Steering Committee or the General Membership. The Treasurer shall dispose of these funds as in accordance with the budget, or as by vote, and shall make regular reports to the Steering Committee and to the General Membership.

(2). Qualifications and Terms of Office.

A. All Officers of the L.V.C.C.B.C. shall be members of the organization.

B. Officers shall be in service for a one year term beginning on January 1.

Article 5 - Committees

All committees shall report to the Steering Committee and the General Membership at regular intervals. All Committee action must be cleared through the Steering Committee or the General Membership. All Committee Chairpersons must be members of the L.V.C.C.B.C.

(1) The Standing Committees and their functions are as follows;

A. Fund Raising. The responsibility will be to find ways of supplementing income by way of donations and other events designated for this purpose.

B. Program Committee. Responsibility will be to develop programs of interest to the General Membership. When sanctioned by the Steering Committee or the General Membership special programs and courses may be arranged outside the framework of the General Membership.

C. Ad Hoc Committees shall be appointed by the Steering Committee as specific needs arise. Ad Hoc Committees shall be dissolved by the Steering Committee as the Ad Hoc Committee's purposes are fulfilled.

Article 6 - Steering Committee

The Officers and Chairpersons of Standing Committees shall constitute the Steering Committee. This Steering Committee shall meet monthly to conduct organizational business and to implement policies and directives. This Committee shall formulate a budget and present it to the General Membership. A majority of Steering Committee members must be present at these meetings in order to conduct business. Steering Committee meetings will be open to any General Member. Special Steering Committee meetings may be called by any Steering Committee member.

Article 7 - Elections

The election of Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons shall be held in the month of December of each year. Those persons elected to office shall take office on January 1 of the following calander year.

(1). Any L.V.C.C.B.C. member may nominate a qualified candidate for office. Nominations will take place during the November General Membership meeting and such nominees' names shall appear in the November Newsletter. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the Election Meeting.

(2). Balloting. The Steering Committee shall be elected by a majority vote. A quorum of eleven members must be present at the election meeting. This procedure shall be accomplished by secret ballot.

A. Tallying. All votes from the members present at the Election Meeting as well as all votes recieved by mail within seven (7) days of the Election Meeting shall be counted. Each Member of the L.V.C.C.B.C. is entitled to one vote.

Article 8 - Membership Meetings

There shall be at least 24 General Membership Meetings per calander year. The ultimate authority of the organization shall lie with the General Membership.

Article 9 - Vacancies

In the event that any Steering Committee position should fall vacant the Steering Committee shall call a special election to fill the vacancy. This election shall take place at the earliest possible General Election Meeting and be subject to the same By-Laws covering regular elections.

Article 10 - Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of those present at a regular meeting provided that the amendment has been proposed by the Steering Committee, or by a 10 % vote of the General Membership and a written notice has been mailed to all members at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which it will be voted upon.

Article 11 - Disolution

The L.V.C.C.B.C. may be dissolved by a 2/3 vote of those present and voting provided that the following procedures have been followed:

- (1) The Steering Committee shall adopt by resolution by a 2/3 vote of the General Membership, a resolution recommending the organization be dissolved.
- (2) This recommendation stating that the purpose, or one of the purposes, of a General Membership meeting is to consider the advisability of dissolving the organization be sent to every member on the mailing list not less than 60 days prior to such meeting.
- (3) Every Member of the Steering Committee is sent this recommendation not less than 60 days prior to the meeting.

Article 12 - Voting on General Issues

General issues can be brought for a vote either by the Steering Committee, or by the General Membership. Eleven L.V.C.C.B.C. members shall constitute a quorum of the General Membership. Any issue brought up for a vote may be passed or defeated by a simple majority vote.

- (1) All Members of Lehigh Valley Citizens Concerned for a Better Community are entitled to one vote at both General Membership and Steering Committee meetings.

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

**Located at Dickinson College
Archives & Special Collections**

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: *Citizens Concerned for a Better Community (CCBC) By-Laws*

Date: circa 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu